

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Devotional...

A tribute to my father

By Harold "Bubba" Lollar Jr.

God is so good. I don't suppose everyone can say he had an Abraham in his life, but I can — my dad! God blessed me with a godly dad. From early on, I learned from my dad that Jesus was real and an important part of my father's life. As a lay speaker, Gideon, gospel singer, deacon, Sunday School teacher, and eventually when he heard God's call to preach in the last 22 years of his life, Daddy was an inspiration to me and the many others who had the opportunity to know him.

Not only was Harold Lollar Sr. my dad, he was my pastor and friend. When I surrendered to God's call in 1982, my dad was there to pray with me, encourage me, help me, and lead me. When at New Orleans Seminary, I thought I had a message to preach, I'd call my father and he would let me preach from his pulpit. When I was called to pastor my first church and ran into a deacon I did not know what to do with, I called Dad. His wisdom and experience gave me the proper way to handle

the situation. When I discovered I had a little ability to sing, it was a duet with my father — "If That Isn't Love." When I was ready to quit the ministry while a pastor in the Delta, my dad encouraged me to be patient and "wait upon the Lord."

Yes, I have been blessed! A heavenly Father who loves me eternally, and an earthly father who loved his son beyond measure. It makes you wonder sometimes why God would have to call a man like this to come home at age 66. But, I know because the Bible tells me so, and my daddy told me so, that God is in control. In his time, we will understand.

My dad, Harold W. Lollar Sr., died Nov. 4, 1992 at 4:55 p.m. at Rush Hospital in Meridian. He was pastor of Pine Forest Church in Collinsville for the last 22 years of his life. A great man of God. A great Daddy. Oh, how I love you so, Dad.

Lollar is BSU intern, Northeast Community College, Booneville.

Your expectations of your father

By Kay Marshall Strom

(ZPS) — Are you demanding more from your father than you have a right to expect of him? Your relationship to your dad is influenced by four dynamics:

- Your father's view of who you should be.
 - Your view of who you are.
 - Your view of who your father should be.
 - Your father's view of who he is.
- Conflict and anger flare up when
- You aren't living up to your father's expectations.
 - You've had it with trying to live up to them.
 - Your father isn't living up to your expectations.
 - He has had it with trying to live up to yours.
- I know what you're thinking. You

want to love your father just the way he is. And he probably says the same thing about you. But the fact of the matter is, feelings are conditional. That's just how we are. We can deny that we set conditions and claim that we have godlike love, but most of the time that just isn't reality.

So what's the answer? First, stop insisting that your love for your father is without conditions. Admit that you do have, that you do set requirements. Acknowledge that your father has conditions of his own.

Once you have accepted this, try to determine exactly what those conditions and expectations are. "I could get along with my father if he wasn't so stubborn," you might say,

or "If I really knew he loved me, I could love him." Or, "If he was a Christian, I could accept him."

Finally, work toward loosening the iron grip of those conditions and expectations. You may be pleasantly surprised to find that simply by admitting the conditions exist and by recognizing what they are, you will begin to move toward accepting your father in spite of what you perceive as his failures. So he's stubborn. So he isn't good at demonstrating his love. You can love him anyway. As for his relationship with Christ, accepting your father is the best thing you can do to help him see his need of God.

Strom is author of *Making Friends with Your Father* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992).



American dreams

Across America, families will celebrate their fathers Sunday, June 20. This Korean American father has dreams for his daughter and life in this country. For him, church is the center of those dreams, not just a building or an institution. He and his family are members of First Korean Baptist Church in Silver Springs, Md. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

Celebrate Father's Day, June 20

SBTS pledges cooperation

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — For the third time in less than a year, Southeastern Seminary has announced involvement with an educational institution in a former Soviet-block country. Southeastern President Paige Patterson signed a pledge May 24 to cooperate with and mutually support the Emmanuel Baptist Bible Institute in Oradea, Romania, the largest theological institution in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Earlier in May, Southeastern committed limited support to the St. Petersburg Theological Academy in Russia, and in January the seminary began sending professors to teach courses at the International Academy of Modern Knowledge in Obninsk, Russia. Students at Southeastern will benefit from this relationship because it will give them "an experience in Europe with a group that is very aggressive evangelistically," Patterson said.

Missionary ranks shrinking

MONROVIA, Calif. (FMB) — For the first time in half a century the number of American missionaries abroad has decreased, falling from 50,500 in 1988 to 41,142 in 1992. The decline was reported in the 1993-95 edition of the *Mission Handbook*, published by the Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center. The decrease, which applies to career or long-term workers, "does not mean that overseas missions involvement by North American agencies is in decline," said handbook editor John Siewert. "This involvement may be through financial or other cooperative resource-shaping partnerships." Also, lay involvement in short-term missions skyrocketed during the 1980s.

Briefly...

Texas

Former Southern Baptist missionary to Chile Joe Poe was elected general director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, May 19 by the institution's trustees. Poe, from Cisco, Texas, succeeds Argentinian Roberto Garcia Bordoli.

Ethiopia

The new Baptist church building in Kaye, Ethiopia, was dedicated during recent ceremonies attended by missionaries and Ethiopian believers. The structure is thought to be the first non-Orthodox church built in this area in more than 1,500 years.

Israel

A 14-year-old student died in mid-May after she fell on steps at the Nazareth Baptist School. The girl hit her head, causing her death, reported Southern Baptist representative Tom Hocutt. A police investigation confirmed the accidental nature of the death, he said.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

In pursuit of percentages

Churches which give a portion of their offerings to causes in our state, nation, and the world make possible our worldwide mission program. Each church decides what this percentage will be. It may vary from 1% to 30%. The average church in the SBC is now giving 7.9%; this average has been on a downward trend for the past six years. The economic downturn is probably the largest factor in this decline, though the SBC controversy has done little to help.

Baptists will support missions and ministries. Suppose a church decided to split the plate offering 50-50 with the Cooperative Program. This looks good on the surface, but the long range effect could be detrimental. Missions across the world would receive an immediate surge of support, but probably missions in the community would be neglected. Church personnel staff would have to be trimmed, fewer local ministries, less literature would be ordered, and probably all bulletins and mail-outs would be slashed.

Not many of our churches would be able to give this way. They realize the value of staff members, community ministries, strong

music programs, information, publicity, and promotion. This makes it possible to inform members of missions, budgets, and special events. Few churches could go 50-50. Keeping the church informed and in fellowship does mean the churches can give 7.9%, or 10%, 15%, 20%, or 30% to outside causes. Keeping the home base strong is essential to a strong ministry in other areas.

State conventions also have a difficult time giving 50-50 to outside causes. Some may be able to give 50% to out-of-state causes by taking out certain budget items beforehand, and then dividing the remainder by half.

Our state conventions range in their CP gifts from 1% to 50%. Mississippi could give 50% to outside causes by first taking out the amount going to Christian education and the Expanded Annuity plan. We could also subtract the amount going to the Stewardship Department, which promotes the Cooperative Program. Our convention considered this route long ago, deciding not to deduct anything, but to present an accurate picture of how your Cooperative Program dollar is divided.

The 1993 CP budget shows that Mississippi gives 37% to the SBC for missions, seminaries, and radio-television, etc. We give 25% to our state institutions and agencies: Children's Village, Christian education, Baptist Foundation, Christian Action Commission, etc.

The Mississippi Convention Board receives 37.8% for mission/church services, including the various departments in the Baptist Building, plus Gulfshore, Central Hills, Youth Night, convention, convention committees, and capital needs. This means that 37 cents of each dollar goes to ministries outside of Mississippi; 38 cents goes for ministries in Mississippi; and 25 cents to colleges and children's ministries. Keep in mind that a SBC mission board or seminary has 38 conventions supporting it, but a Mississippi college has only one state supporting it.

Compared with the need of various ministries and with other SBC states, ours seems to be a healthy balance. We are grateful to the churches making this broad ministry available to "Jerusalem, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world."

Guest opinion...

Is church partly responsible for divorce?

By Michael J. McManus

Six out of 10 new marriages are failing and many of the rest are unhappy. Yet I am convinced nine out of 10 marriages can not only be saved, but joyful.

In a foreword to my book, *Marriage Savers*, George Gallup Jr. writes movingly: "If a disease were to afflict the majority of a populace... we would be frantically searching for reasons and solutions. Yet this particular scourge has become so endemic that it is virtually ignored.... DIVORCE (is) an oddly neglected topic in a nation that has the worst record of broken marriages in the entire world."

Some alarming statistics:

1. Divorces have tripled since 1960, from 393,000 to 1,187,000 in 1991. What does it mean? A friend said: "Divorce is like suffering death without a funeral. The pain never ends. It is a living death and our society does not let us grieve...."

2. Cohabitation has soared six-fold since 1960, and now precedes the majority of all marriages in America. "Marriages that are preceded by living together have 50% higher disrup-

tion (divorce or separation) rates than marriages without premarital cohabitation," reports the National Survey of Families and Households.

3. Fewer young adults are getting married at all. In 1991 there were 41 million adults who had never married — twice the number in only 1970!

4. Only 55% of adults are married — the lowest figure ever.

5. Those hurt the most are children. Before age 18, three-fifths of children will lose a parent to divorce.

The church is a silent accomplice to this galloping tragedy. When was the last time you heard a sermon on chastity, cohabitation, or divorce? Most pastors sidestep the tough issues.

In 1981, I wrote: "It is time to acknowledge that the American church is partly responsible for the soaring divorce rate." Nothing has changed.

During a generation when divorces tripled, more than three-quarters of all marriages were blessed by priests, pastors, and rabbis. Sadly, most houses of worship are only "blessing

machines," preparing couples for weddings, not lifelong marriages.

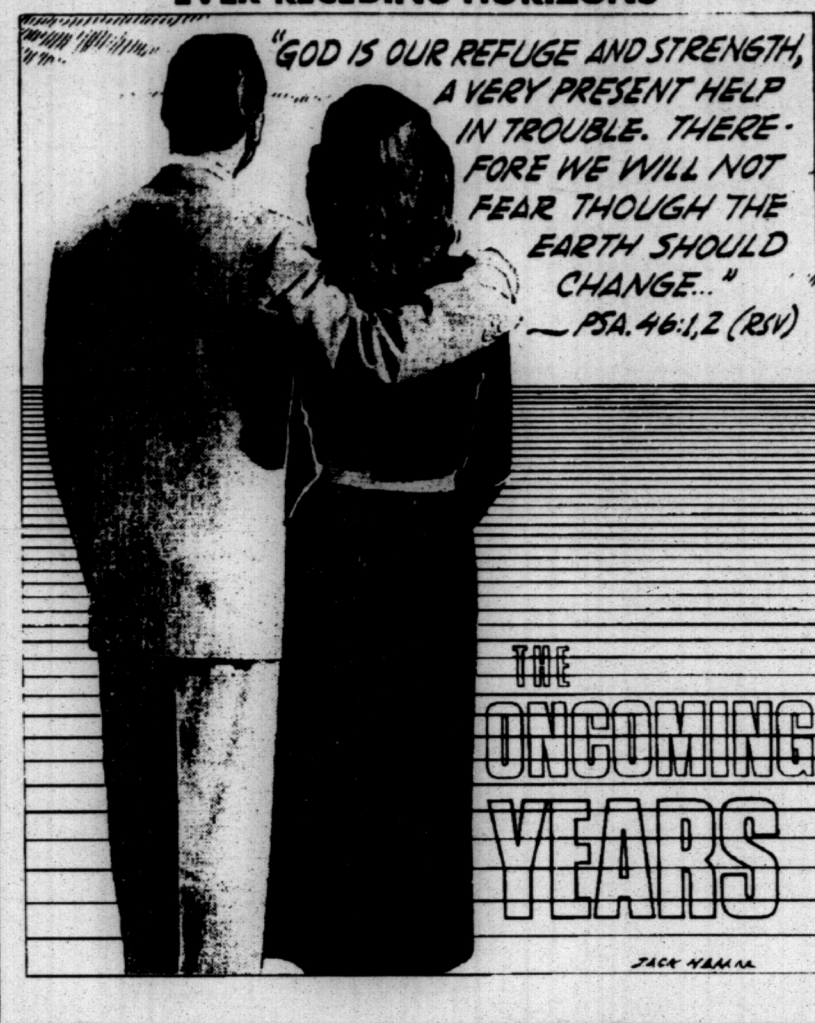
To be "marriage savers," churches must begin with teens, a million of whom get pregnant a year. Sexually active teenagers are not learning discipline needed for lifelong marriage, but habits that lead to divorce and welfare. Some 60,000 churches have shown an answer, a video series that makes a case for chastity: *Why Wait?* by Josh McDowell.

Parents can be more influential than a teen's peers in making a case for chastity, says Stan Weed of the Institute for Research and Evaluation. Yet only 15% of mothers and 8% of fathers have ever talked to their children about premarital sex!

Tell them of a study proving that those who remain virgins till marriage have a divorce rate 60% lower than non-virgins! Chastity increases the odds of lifelong marriage.

McManus has written "Ethics & Religion" since 1981, a syndicated column in 100 newspapers. He and wife Harriet, married since 1965, have three sons and live in Bethesda, Md.

EVER-RECEDING HORIZONS



You are no older than you feel — which is discouraging

I knew the group was getting older as we stumbled into the living room, our eyes searching for the best chair. The big easy-boy chair was eyed but passed over by most; too hard to get up.

Hearing aids were fine-tuned, bifocals adjusted, and belts loosened as we began the meeting. It was not a formal meeting and there were a half-dozen conversations going on. Topics ranged from Medicare to cemetery lots.

Several spoke of blood pressure, and a sphygmomanometer materialized. The small group compared systolic and diastolic numbers in hushed tones as the machine was passed around the room. This was the highlight of the evening for many, and medical-related stories were manufactured, designed to make you feel like you didn't know real pain. Job would have been comfortable there.

Orthopedic shoes slipped into the conversation. Mall-walking was verbalized — the one who started earliest and walked farthest was the real hero.

The lady who requested prayer for her "autopsy" was mentioned. Everyone had heard the story and no one bothered to explain that she meant biopsy. It produced little beyond the pale laughter.

Retirement was praised and condemned. It was agreed that we longed for a dull evening at home for sheer enjoyment.

Politics was brought up and progressed rapidly to Social Security. Community service was introduced and we talked more about Social Security. Sports surfaced and it was duly noted that 40-year-old pitcher Nolan Ryan was now on Aspercreme most of the time. The international scene was touted as a "bunch of old men trying to get their way."

We omitted the theme song, "Help Me Make It Through the Night," and only muttered the Scripture verse: "And Jacob was old and full of years." The favorite color was "pink — like the color of Pepto" — and the favorite actor was not discussed. I had the distinct feeling it would have been Bob Hope, Lili Marlene, or Matt Dillon. The reader of the new book, *The Methuselah Factor*, looked up for a moment at this and then continued reading.

AARP was castigated for letting 55-year-old Boomers into membership. "Why, it's like having an AARP Jr."

"Please turn the AC down, it's colder than the church" was voiced as several sweaters were pulled over shaking shoulders.

No minutes were recorded. We not only dispensed with the reading of the previous minutes, but threatened the reader. The meeting broke up around 7:30; several wanted to get home before dark.

— GH

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Evangelistic thrust Crossover yields 962 professions of faith

HOUSTON (BP) — Southern Baptists recorded 962 professions of faith during the fifth Crossover evangelism effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston.

Preliminary reports include 221 professions of faith from door-to-door surveys, 135 from rallies and revivals, 277 from street witnessing, and 329 from block parties.

"In every case where churches participated enthusiastically, there were a multitude of seeds sown and a tremendous harvest," said Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism. Crossover is jointly sponsored by the HMB and the host state convention and local association.

In addition to professions of faith, 4,300 people were fed during block parties and at least 1,448 prospects were discovered for local churches.

Darrell Copeland, pastor of Jersey Village Church in suburban Houston, said he expects a long-term impact from Crossover. His church participated in door-to-door surveys by matching a church member with an out-of-town volunteer. This was the first door-to-door experience for some of his church members.

People participating in the door-to-door thrust used a survey that questioned residents about their church membership, what would attract them to a church, and if they thought a local church cared

about them. The survey led to the opportunity for volunteers to share their testimony.

"This is opening their eyes to their community," Copeland said. He said it was good for his church members to realize how many people in their neighborhood do not attend church.

People shared the gospel 1,364 times during the door-to-door surveys and the resulting 221 professions confirmed previous experience that a conversion results one out of every six times the gospel is presented, Robinson said.

Volunteers witnessing at parks, shopping centers, and other places with high pedestrian traffic were added to the Crossover agenda in 1991 when the convention met in Atlanta. This year's result of 277 conversions was the most successful statistically, said Norman Harbough, coordinator of the 35 street teams.

Street evangelism last year at Crossover Indianapolis reported 198 professions of faith; Crossover Atlanta had 156, he said.

In addition to the conversions, Crossover also generated excitement among local church leaders, Harbough said. "People now have a vision of what can be done."

More than 500 volunteers braved humidity and temperatures in the upper 80s to witness, serve food, and entertain people coming to the 21 block parties, said Bill Cox, coordinator of the parties.

Executive Committee will decide fate of Carey debt

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has been invited to a called meeting June 24 to consider a request from William Carey College for a \$7.9 million refinancing of its debts.

The next regular meeting of the board would be in August, which is after June 30, the date Carey needs for the financing plan to be signed into effect. The board's approval is necessary since the plan calls for a mortgaging of Carey property.

The personnel and policy committee will meet at 10 a.m.; the Executive Committee at 11 a.m.; and the full board at 1 p.m. All meetings will take place at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

At a called meeting of the Executive Committee last week to consider hiring Barri Shirley as director of accounting and personnel (see *Baptist Record*, June 10), several other matters were dealt with.

The committee approved purchase of a computer accounting system for the Mississippi Baptist Foundation at a cost of \$22,400. This amount will be paid back on a monthly basis from the Foundation.

The package should increase the efficiency of the accounting and reduce support time by the MBCB's computer staff.

Executive Committee members approved up to \$8,000 from the depreciation fund to trade for a 1993 Oldsmobile Regency automobile for Bill Causey, the executive director.

And the committee voted to table until its next meeting a proposal which it had tabled last month.

The proposal would give nearly \$25,000 to pay for half of a feasibility study concerning a Baptist retirement facility. The other half would be borne by the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

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Missionary Jerry Rankin approved for FMB post

HOUSTON—Missionary Jerry Rankin was elected president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 14 by a vote of 59-14, or 81%, following a three-hour executive session of the agency's trustees, meeting at Second Church, Houston. The final tally fell five votes short of spoiling the needed 75% to approve Rankin's nomination.

After the roll-call vote, trustee Paul Pressler of Houston, who voted against Rankin, moved that the vote be made unanimous, which was approved.

Trustees' debate over the nomination of Rankin, a 23-year missions veteran, focused on Rankin's "personal theology and practice of spiritual gifts," search chairman Joel Gregory told reporters afterward. The issue was "fully ventilated," Gregory said. "We fully accept his explanation."

Rankin, 51, admits to "praying in the Spirit," considered by most charismatics to be a private use of

the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. He also acknowledges interpreting, or translating, a message spoken in tongues during a public worship service in Singapore, where he serves as area director for the FMB's 480 missionaries in Southern Asia and the Pacific.

But Rankin insists he is not a charismatic and not part of the modern charismatic movement, which encourages tongues-speaking as evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory said the search committee was likewise convinced Rankin's private prayer experiences "would not fall into the category of unknown ecstatic utterances," commonly known as tongues.

Rankin was pressured to withdraw before the vote, sources said, and the search committee likewise was asked to postpone the election. A motion to postpone was voted down during the closed-door

session.

According to several trustees, there were enough negative votes at the start of the closed session to block the election. But Rankin himself swung the vote, according to search committee member Leon Hyatt of Louisiana.

"He spoke forthrightly on the charismatic issue and convinced a majority of trustees that he is not charismatic and is opposed to the modern charismatic movement but is very interested in being filled with the Holy Spirit and very committed to winning the world to Jesus," Hyatt said.

Most trustees spoke highly of Rankin's spiritual devotion and commitment to missions, saying only his views on tongues caused them pause.

Allowed to address trustees during the June 14 session, Rankin outlined several broad principles that would guide his administration:

(See RANKIN on page 8)



A family walk

Jerry A. Rankin, left, has become the 10th president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Here, Rankin walks hand-in-hand with his wife, Bobbie, in a Dallas-Fort Worth area park. The Rankins' 23-year-old son, Russell (holding hand of wife Angela), and 24-year-old daughter, Lori, right, follow. A 15-member trustee search committee voted unanimously May 25 in a meeting in a nearby hotel to nominate Rankin to

the post. He was approved late Monday evening, June 14, by unanimous trustee vote during their meeting at Second Church, Houston. That meeting preceded the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rankin, 51, is a 23-year missions veteran and was serving as the board's area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific. He succeeds R. Keith Parks as the agency's president. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

The Southern Baptist Convention is now concluding in Houston, Texas. The full news of the Convention will be included in the June 24 issue of the *Baptist Record*.



International church anniversary

The International Baptist (English-speaking) Church of Bonn-Cologne, Germany, celebrated its second anniversary May 16. Mississippi was represented at the celebration by John Merritt, left, executive director of the European Baptist Convention, and Bob Harper, right, of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. Merritt was principle speaker at the service, which attracted over 225 people, representing 30 nations. Harper presented contributions on behalf of the L.C. Riley Sunday School class of Morrison Heights. Those monies will help Calvin Hogue, center, pastor of the church, to purchase English translation Bibles for refugees to Germany from war-torn nations. Other Mississippians who attended were Anne Culbertson, resident of Bonn and former member of First Church, Jackson; and Elizabeth Merritt.

WMU now accepting grant applications

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union is now accepting applications for Second Century Fund grants. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 1.

The Second Century Fund is an endowment fund begun in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently with only the interest given annually as gifts.

Gifts are given in three categories: to develop missions organizations abroad; to enhance WMU

leadership development in the United States; and to foster education about missions and WMU among Southern Baptist seminary students and faculty.

Grant recipients will be announced during the January 1994 WMU executive board meeting.

To date, 99 grants totaling more than \$291,000 have been awarded to individuals and organizations.

Grant applications are available from Second Century Fund, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Operation Rescue announces July Cities of Refuge efforts

Jackson has been named a "City of Refuge" for unborn children who desperately need a place of safety.

Operation Rescue, a nationwide ministry bent on closing abortion clinics and saving unborn children, has announced that its Cities of Refuge program will take place July 9-18 in seven cities simultaneously across the United States, including Jackson.

Other cities named are Philadelphia, Penn.; Central Florida; Cleveland, Ohio; San Jose, Calif.; Minneapolis, Minn.; and Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

Focus of the Cities of Refuge event is to solicit the help of "God-fearing people to resist the evil of child murder" in prayer, presentation of the gospel, and "non-violent direct action" at local abortion clinics.

The ministry has also published the following facts: in the last five years, 500 abortuaries have closed; 83% of the counties in America have no doctor who will perform an abortion; and the number of medical schools teaching abortion technique has fallen by nearly 50%.

For further information on how to participate in Cities of Refuge, contact Operation Rescue Mississippi at (601) 948-6634.



Speakers emphasize Baptist distinctives at Texas rally

DALLAS (ABP) — More than 500 Texas Baptists gathered June 4-5 in Dallas to tout the historic Baptist distinctives of soul competence, the priesthood of the believer, autonomy of local congregations, and separation of church and state — pillars of Baptist heritage they say are under attack by fundamentalism.

The event was the first annual convocation of Texas Baptists Committed, an organization dedicated to keeping the 2.6 million-member General Convention of Texas focused on missions, evangelism, and education, and out of the hands of Southern Baptist fundamentalists.

James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, likened the 14-year struggle between Southern Baptist moderates and fundamentalists to the fall of Humpty Dumpty, because fundamentalists have "pulled the rug out from under the Baptist furniture, denied the distinctives that make us Baptist."

The fundamentalists have disturbed Baptists' "basic ingredient, freedom of religion," Dunn said.

"Our freedom is rooted not in the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, (or) history," he explained. "Our freedom is rooted not in a church, a creed, a belief, a book, not even the Bible. It is rooted in the nature of God."

Dunn said soul freedom, religious liberty, and church-state separation are like three concentric circles. "At the center in the smallest circle burns the biblical, theological doctrine of soul freedom with which we began — made, somehow, in

God's image... intended to be free and responsible.

"The next ring outward, religious liberty is the moral and social consequence of voluntary faith and personal conversion. If we claim that freedom for ourselves, we must defend it for others, too.

"Finally, the outer circle is the separation of church and state, the constitutional principle that serves as a fence, a guardrail, a wall protecting individual religious freedom."

Dunn commended Texas Baptists, who during the "seismic

upheaval in Baptist life" have "doggedly determined to remain Baptist."

James Denison, pastor of First Church of Midland, urged participants to "stay Baptist" for the sake of 8.5 million non-Christians in Texas.

He said that he had stayed out of the battle for the SBC for several years, but came to the conviction he must be involved. "Taking a stand today comes at a risk and at a price. But we must tell them (fundamentalists) that they cannot have the BGCT," Denison said to a standing, cheering ovation.

Texas board affirms state, national WMU

DALLAS (BP) — The Woman's Missionary Unions of Texas and the Southern Baptist Convention were reaffirmed for their missions support in a resolution adopted at the quarterly meeting of the Texas Baptist Executive Board June 8.

Also, the 193-member board, which handles business of the 2.5-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas between annual convention sessions, adopted resolutions commending two of its institutions for their Christian ministries during the Branch Davidian tragedy in Waco, Texas, this spring.

In the WMU resolution, presented by Ron Gunter, pastor of First Church in Henrietta, Texas, the board expressed appreciation for

the "close and cordial relationship with WMU" and "the firm resolve of WMU to call out Baptists everywhere to deeper and more effective missions commitments."

It noted that both Texas and national Woman's Missionary Unions for more than a century have "effectively challenged Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission" while helping to raise more than \$2 billion for mission causes.

Also, it affirmed WMU for catalyzing missions education and awareness in churches nationwide through development of excellent training organizations and materials and for being instrumental in the recognition of God's call to missions in the lives of thousands of missionaries.

Churches can begin now to plan for '94 ministries campaign

By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists can begin praying and preparing now for the convention's first simultaneous ministry outreach in 1994, say organizers from the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union.

Like simultaneous revivals, churches are asked to sponsor a Christian ministry between June 19 and July 31, 1994, to share Christ with their community, said Gerry Hutchinson, associate director for the HMB Church and Community Ministries Department.

"All we want them to do is some ministry outreach in Jesus' name during the six-week simultaneous period, and it can be as simple or elaborate as the church chooses,"

said Hutchinson.

Titled "Hope for Hurting Humanity," the event is part of 1994's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on ministry.

Projects range from sponsoring a Backyard Bible Club for area children or teaching adult literacy courses to hosting a health fair or starting a food closet.

Churches could stage a one-time event, a series of ministries, or kick-off a project that will continue after the six-week period is over, Hutchinson said. "All we're saying to the church is, 'Find a hurt and heal it. Find a need and fill it in Jesus' name.'"

Winfrey is associate director, News and Information, Home Mission Board.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the May 6 issue of the Baptist Record: Benton-Tippah: Fellowship and Turner's Chapel; Carroll-Montgomery: Mount Pisgah and Unity; and Lauderdale: Meehan.

WMU board launches VISION fund, issues no Executive Committee reply

By Linda Lawson

HOUSTON (BP) — A special fund to accept contributions for missions projects and the ongoing work of Woman's Missionary Union was authorized June 12 by the WMU executive board, along with plans to fund annual projects addressing critical social issues.

No action was taken, meanwhile, in response to resolutions by Southern Baptist Convention and state Baptist convention bodies concerning the executive board's January 1993 decision to consider requests to produce missions materials for other evangelical groups.

The SBC Executive Committee voiced concern in February that WMU would no longer maintain exclusive relationships with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. FMB trustees subsequently affirmed the Executive Committee resolution. Other groups and individuals have expressed support for WMU, including a June 8 resolution of support by the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

WMU Executive Director Del-

lanna O'Brien said the WMU executive board discussed the issue in its traditional Saturday morning executive session preceding the general session but determined no response was needed.

The new fund, titled the "VISION" fund, will enable the national women's missions organization to achieve its vision for the future, O'Brien said, and will provide needed support in light of reductions in traditional funding sources, including sales of magazines and products.

"To ensure the ongoing of our ministries, we must pursue other sources of income," she said. To administer the fund, O'Brien announced the formation of a development office to be overseen by June Whitlow, WMU associate executive director.

Board members also voted to conduct national projects to alleviate hunger in 1993-95 and to address the issue of AIDS in 1995-96. They delayed until January 1994 decisions about what issues should be addressed for the remainder of the decade.

In other business, the executive board approved the development of plans for a WMU enlargement campaign to be launched in June 1994; okayed a 1993-94 budget of \$14.5 million; a goal of \$86 million for the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and a goal of \$42 million for the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

The board also approved an adult curriculum plan for 1995-96 and agreed to postpone until January 1994 a decision on a name for its adult organization.

The first three recipients of R. Keith Parks scholarship grants were announced. Recipients are Patricia Ann Jones of Richmond, Va.; Roseline M. Minikon of Louisville, Ky.; and Helen Hoggatt Price of Summit and summer camp director at Garaywa, Clinton.

The scholarship fund was begun by WMU to honor the contributions to missions of Parks, who retired earlier this year as FMB president.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Thursday, June 17, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Magnolias in North Carolina

Twenty-three Mississippi Baptist secretaries attended the April meeting of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries at Ridgecrest Assembly. They were: Nancy Seals, Debbie Smith, Jamie Luecke, and Ann Collett of Brookhaven; Elizabeth Godfrey, Mary Young, and Linda Dupler of Columbus; Mary Ray and Betty Crawford, Brandon; Mary Langford, Betsy Bumpus and Nancee Ratliff, Tupelo; Carolyn Daniel, Ashland; Lillian Carte, Long Beach; Paulette Fagan, Moss Point; Susan Hardin, Escatawpa; Jean Young, Gautier; Shirley Massey, Pascagoula; Lula McCaa, Lucedale; Tinie Slade, Gulfport; Betty Chesteen, Greenville; Dyanne McCord, Oxford; Linda Pace and Charlotte Wheat, Prentiss; Nancy Humphrey, Jackson; and Rachel Gibson, Clinton.

Aids continues spreading rapidly; focus turns from Africa to India

BOMBAY, India (EP) — The spread of the AIDS epidemic is a major medical concern internationally, and while Africa continues to be hard-hit by the disease, health officials are also turning their attention to Asia.

According to the World Health Organization, over 12 million people around the world are infected with HIV. The largest numbers of those infected are in sub-Saharan Africa, with more than 7.5 million cases of HIV, but growing attention is being placed on the spread of HIV in Asia, particularly in the nation of India.

The World Health Organization said that what is happening in Asia today is similar to what happened in the early days of the epi-

demic in Africa. With 50% of the world's population, Asia is likely to be the next major AIDS epicenter by the year 2000.

In Asia as a whole, an estimated 1.5 million people are infected with HIV. In November, 1992, India had almost 11,000 confirmed cases of HIV infection, according to World Vision, a number that even the government acknowledges is deceptively low because the country lacks an organized, widespread testing system. Of this infected group, 242 have developed full-blown cases of AIDS. Already, 110 have died as a result of the disease. Various estimates, including one from the World Health Organization (WHO), claim that one million

Indians are infected with HIV.

According to World Vision, although the disease is still in the early stages in India, the nation of 870 million has all of the elements to create an AIDS disaster: widespread poverty and ignorance, a largely unscreened blood supply, and an overburdened health care system. WHO predicts that if the virus goes unchecked, India could have five million HIV-infected people and one million full-blown AIDS cases by the year 2000.

The AIDS virus, which ravages the immune system and leaves victims vulnerable to deadly bouts with tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancers, and various infections, has the potential to overwhelm India's medical system.

Hunger giving leaps \$1 million in 1992

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist giving to fight world hunger leaped a whopping \$1 million, or 12%, during 1992, and Baptist leaders foresee the possibility of another giant step this year.

Like a hard rain in the middle of a long dry spell, the increase broke a pattern of decline and stagnation in Southern Baptist Convention hunger giving since 1984. The \$8.84 million given during 1992 is the highest since 1988 and the fifth-highest year since the SBC began its hunger collection in 1974.

The increase was not uniform but instead reflected variances on a state-by-state basis. For instance, giving to world hunger causes in

the Northwest Convention shot up 689%, while in Virginia the increase was 3.4%. Mississippi fell back 5.7% and Texas declined 6.4%. The worst drop of the 10 states that fell was in Iowa, down 54.4%.

States showing large increases were Alaska, 20%; Arizona, 32.1%; Arkansas, 43.3%; California, 11.38%; the Dakotas, 38.2%; Indiana, 31.8%; Kansas-Nebraska, 10.6%; Kentucky, 14.5%; Minnesota-Wisconsin, 33.9%; Nevada, 84%; New Mexico, 18.5%; New York, 40.5%; Ohio, 19.8%; Oklahoma, 10.6%; Pennsylvania, 15.9%; Tennessee, 160.2%; Utah-Idaho, 12.9%; West Virginia, 59.3%; Wyoming, 97%; and Canada and other countries,

117.8%.

The upturn prompted words of praise and caution from convention leaders who work in the area of world hunger.

Bob Nash of the Foreign Mission Board said during the first four months of 1993 hunger giving has increased another 17.2%.

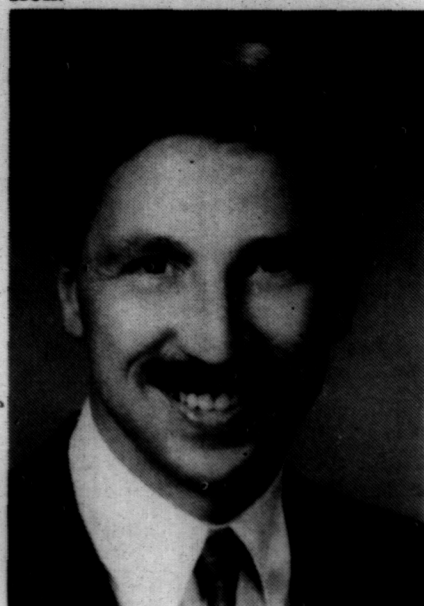
"In the context of the declining economy in our country, the 17.2 increase is phenomenal," he said. "This indicates the continuing strong emphasis of the Foreign Mission Board and our Southern Baptist constituency in these worldwide concerns."

He said the increase is allowing the board to fund special projects it otherwise could not afford.

Moore writes for CLC.

David Morrow of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department has joined the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Morrow, 40, began work last week as preschool/children's specialist in the BSSB's Discipleship and Family Development Division.



Morrow

Since 1989, he has been a consultant in preschool and children's work for the convention board.

From 1990-91, he was a presenter with Video Dynamics of Jackson. He was minister of education and administration at First Church, Brandon, 1983-89; minister of education and administration at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, 1979-83; and was minister of education and youth at Brookwood Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 1977-79. Earlier, he owned and operated Quality Tops, a silk screen textile printing business.

Morrow is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

A native of Lawton, Okla., Morrow is married to Amy Lynn Mosley. They have three daughters, Jennifer, born in 1974; Heather, 1975; and Stacy, 1980.

Mose Dangerfield, department director and Morrow's supervisor, said, "David has been a very creative and hard working addition to our staff. We sincerely regret losing a person of his character, personality, and abilities."

Choral music composer Parks dies before session

HOUSTON (BP) — Church choral music composer Joe Parks, 66, died June 10 of a heart attack about 40 minutes before he was to lead a reading session of new music at a Baptist Sunday School Board conference.

He was the composer of nearly

1,000 musical titles and author of "Songleading Made Easy," published by the BSSB's Convention Press.

In addition to his wife, Parks is survived by three sons, Michael, of Warner Robbins, Ga.; Monty of Augusta, Ga.; and Marty of Jackson.

capsules

LOTTIE MOON GIVING DROPS SECOND TIME IN THREE YEARS: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Giving to Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions fell to \$80,980,881 in 1992, a decrease of about \$378,000 from 1991. The total, tallied when the books closed May 31, reflects the second time in three years the offering has dropped from the year before. The shortfall is about \$3 million less than the Foreign Mission Board expected when it planned its 1993 budget last October, but it didn't equal the \$1.5 million decrease the board projected earlier. It comes at a time Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, also shows signs of leveling. The Cooperative Program fell in 1991 and 1992. Through April, it shows a slight decrease compared to the same period in 1992. The Lottie Moon offering and receipts from the Cooperative Program are budgeted to pay for 84% of Southern Baptists' \$184 million foreign missions program in 1993. Investment income and hunger gifts account for an additional 11 percent of the board's expected income.

CHURCHES MAY USE SCHOOLS, SUPREME COURT RULES: WASHINGTON (BP) — In a decision both unsurprising and unanimous, the Supreme Court recently ruled public schools may not refuse churches use of their buildings when use by other groups is allowed. The Court's nine justices agreed June 7 a New York school district violated the free speech rights of an evangelical church when it prohibited Lamb's Chapel from renting space at a high school to show a film series on the family. The Court's opinion also found the church's use of the facilities would not be an unconstitutional establishment of religion. "I am pleased but not surprised that the Court ruled to overturn the lower court decision, which was as blatant an example of antireligious prejudice as has come before the Supreme Court in recent years," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

ARKANSAN GIVING \$1 MILLION FOR ANNUITY BOARD ENDOWMENT: DALLAS — The Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust of Springdale, Ark., has announced a \$1 million gift to the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Paul W. Powell, president of the Annuity Board, announced the gift today as a part of the Board's "A Time to Remember" campaign for its Endowment Ministry. "In her conversation with me," said Powell, "Mrs. Jones expressed a desire to help retired pastors, missionaries, other church workers and their widows who are in financial need. Her magnificent gift will accomplish her goal in a wonderful way." The gift, to be paid over two years, will be applied to endowment for the Annuity Board's Adopt An Annuitant Program.

APPELLATE COURT UPHOLDS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN MINOR ABORTION: NEW ORLEANS (EP) — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled May 26 that Mississippi can require the consent of both parents or a judge for a minor to obtain an abortion. The ruling overturned a lower court decision that called the requirement unconstitutional. This was the first time a federal appeals court had upheld the mandatory involvement of two parents since 1990 when a Minnesota law requiring two-parent notification or judicial consent was upheld. By a 2-1 vote, the appeals court said consent requirement in the 1986 law was a constitutionally permissible way for the state to "express profound respect for the life of the unborn." Mississippi's 24-hour waiting period and informed consent requirements have already been upheld by federal courts.

SWINDOLL APPOINTED TO DALLAS SEMINARY'S HIGHEST POST: DALLAS (EP) — Charles Swindoll will become the new president of the Dallas Theological Seminary, effective July 1, 1994. He succeeds Donald K. Campbell, who is retiring from the post. Swindoll, 58, will remain as president of Insight for Living, the daily radio ministry through which he is heard across the country. He will also remain in his position as senior pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif. John Sailhamer, currently an associate professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., has been selected to serve as provost of the 1,000-student school under Swindoll.

AIDS HOME TO BE "PLACE OF LIFE" FOR BRAZILIAN STREET KIDS: (YWAM) — Some of Brazil's abandoned children now have the chance to experience the love and security of a home for the first time. The House of Refuge is opening its doors to street children with AIDS. The four-storey sanctuary established by Youth With a Mission is located in downtown Belo Horizonte — Brazil's fourth-largest city. It can house 20 babies and teenagers, and is staffed by YWAM volunteers trained in basic health care. Experts predict that Brazil faces an AIDS crisis among its estimated six million street children, with widespread prostitution and promiscuity quickly spreading the virus among the six- to 18-year-olds. Three other YWAM centers in the city provide help for other street kids, including a drop-in center, feeding programs, vocational training, and two halfway houses for those wanting to make a new start.

Locks hold as missionaries wait out Angolan looters

By Craig Bird

LUANDA, Angola (BP) — Veteran Southern Baptist missionaries Curtis and Betty Dixon spent five hours on the floor June 7 while bandits tried to shoot the locks off their home in Angola and looted the house next door.

The Dixons, of Stroud, Okla., awakened around midnight when the bandits began firing. Four bullets penetrated the front door of the house and the interior walls, exiting through the kitchen door. But the locks held. The houses are prefabricated aluminum structures.

The missionary couple spent the remainder of the night on the floor of their bedroom listening to the gang looting an adjacent mission

residence. That house was not occupied since fellow missionaries Don and Carol Minshew are on temporary assignment in Kenya.

The Dixons now have moved across Luanda, Angola's capital, to stay with Assembly of God missionary friends.

The rekindling of the 30-year-old Angolan civil war immediately after multi-party elections has left Luanda in chaos and Southern Baptist mission work in disarray. Missionaries have little hope stability will return soon. The Dixons, who have evacuated the country several times before, intend to remain if at all possible.

Missionary Mark Hatfield, cur-

rently living in Zimbabwe, planned to fly into Luanda June 12 to assess the situation. The last word he had was that the house where he and his wife, Susan, lived in Huambo had not been damaged or looted. But what has happened in the intervening months is unknown.

The Minshews are planning to transfer to Namibia while missionaries John and Wanne Dina are considering working in Mozambique — like Angola, a former Portuguese colony. Bob and Susan Evans, the fifth missionary couple assigned to Angola, are in language study in Portugal and also are looking at other mission service options. Bird writes for FMB.

Iranian policy makes conversion to Christ more life-threatening

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — Muslims in Iran who openly declare Christianity are more likely to be executed following a change in government policy there.

Under a new policy, converts to Christianity are being charged with "apostasy" or "blaspheming the Prophet Muhammad," reported Iranian Christians living outside Iran. Under Islamic law, called "sharia," a judge is required to issue a death sentence for these offenses.

Christians inside the country fear the policy change will make evangelistic outreach even more difficult. Executions for general offenses such as drug trafficking are common in Iran, according to press reports, but executions of Christians have not been routinely car-

ried out by the government. Apostasy, however, is seen as a serious offense.

Muslims who become Christians in Iran at times have faced intense persecution, prison sentences, or executions by government leaders who see themselves as agents of Allah. Mehdi Dibaj, a Christian evangelist who helped translate the New Testament into Farsi, has been imprisoned for eight years, for example. He spent two of the eight years in solitary confinement in a 3-by-3-foot cell with no light.

Recently, Iranian Christians said, a church member was ordered to appear in court and report on his pastor's sermons. When he refused he was accused of the crime of "apostasy," or abandoning Islam, and condemned to death.

A noose was placed around the man's neck and his family was marched in before him. Officials told him to repudiate Christianity and be loyal to Islam or they would hang his family after him. He broke under the pressure and said he would give up Christianity.

Christians, mostly ethnic Armenian and Assyrian groups, make up about 1% of Iran's 54 million people. Evangelicals make up a small percentage of the general Christian population. About half of these live in Tehran, the capital. Most are Presbyterian, Anglican, and members of the Assemblies of God, an indigenous group not connected with an outside denomination. There are no known Baptists in Iran.

Creswell writes for FMB.



Glad to see him

Workers pulling grass from a rice field outside Kenieba, Mali, greet Southern Baptist missionary Mike Krahwinkel (center right) when he comes to inspect their field. Krahwinkel, an agricultural evangelist,

helped them get started and find places to sell their rice. The workers often sing, accompanied by a drummer, making a monotonous chore more enjoyable. (FMB photo by Don Rutledge)

HOUSETOPS

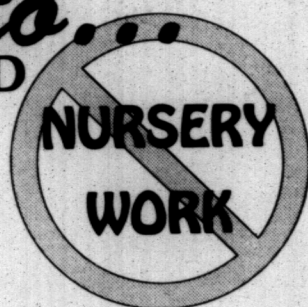
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 17, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

How to...
GET INVOLVED
IN.....

EXTENDED
SESSION



The Challenge of Extended Session!

Extended session is one of the most talked about preschool topics. Let's look at some questions about extended session. What is extended session? Why have extended session? Who attends? What rooms are used? Who is responsible for teaching? Who discovers, enlists, trains, schedules, and guides the extended session teachers?

What is extended session? It is the time during the worship service when the preschoolers, whose parents are in the worship service, remain in the same room where they are taught during Sunday School and/or Discipleship Training. Extended session is the continuation of Bible teaching and is provided before or after Sunday School and after Discipleship Training. It is not a "service" to families ("baby-sitting") but an educational ministry in the development and growth of each child. Because extended session is a teaching time, the preschool room will not have a loudspeaker interrupting the Bible teaching by broadcasting the adult-centered worship service. Extended session teachers may enjoy the courtesy of a church who provides them a complimentary cassette recording of the service.

Why have extended session? We are commanded to instruct (teach) children at all times (Deut. 6: 4-7). Gathering as a church to learn about God and Jesus is vital to preparing for life's challenges and opportunities. While parents are in worship, they know their preschoolers are busy learning on their (preschoolers) level.

Who is responsible for extended session? Your church will decide who will be responsible for the extended session program. Some possibilities are: preschool department director, preschool division director, minister of preschool education, extended session coordinator or preschool committee member. The person who enlists the extended session teacher needs to explain that this is a time of teaching and not just "baby-sitting in the nursery." When the person accepts this challenge, the person enlisting gives the extended session teacher guidelines on arrival time, suggested activities, and the schedule of teaching.

Article continued on back page

Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference

July 15-17, 1993

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.



ASSOCIATIONAL/ ADULT

Tommy Keown
Specialist
Baptist Sunday
School Board
Nashville, Tenn.



WORSHIP/ADULT

William J. Reynolds
Professor of Church Music
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Tex.



ORGAN

Michelle Harrison
Keyboard Specialist, CMAA
Organist/Children's
Choir Coordinator
FBC, Laurel, Miss.



PIANO

Max Lyall
Professor, Church Music
Golden Gate Baptist
Theological Seminary
Mill Valley, Calif.



KEYBOARD

Irene Martin
Keyboard Specialist, CMAA
Composer, Concert Artist
Harpersville, Miss.

PRE-SCHOOL



Rhonda Edge-Buescher
Asst. Professor of Church Music Education
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Curriculum Writer & Music Specialist
Ft. Worth, Tex.

YOUNGER CHILDREN



Mary Delaine Allcock
Curriculum Writer & Music Specialist
Hope, Ark.

OLDER CHILDREN



Susan Low
Church Music Specialist
& Chorus
Houston, Tex.

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"A" Unit is 76.90 (per person 2 beds - 2 adults)
"C" Unit is 70.90 (per person 4 beds - 2 adults)
\$30 deposit

Sponsored by the Church Music Department
L. Graham Smith, Director
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • 968-3800

PRAYERGRAM

June 17 - July 1, 1993

Pray for Mark, Susan and Stratton Hatfield, missionaries to Angola, who are waiting in Zimbabwe to determine whether they will be able to return to their field. Political strife makes this an unwise decision at this time. Susan Hatfield is the granddaughter of Mrs. William McMurray, formerly of the WMU staff, SBC.

Pray for the Dominican Republic, an island south-east of Cuba. Missionary Sheila Wang reports that this country has so many pressing needs. Pray for drinking water and food for the elderly, support for abandoned children and the five volunteer medical/dental teams to come during 1993.

Pray for Southern Baptist personnel of Hong Kong (southeastern China coast) as they help meet the needs of countries in East Asia which do not allow missionaries. This may mean setting up student and faculty exchanges or arranging for help with medical care, agriculture and other human needs.

Pray for Larry Ballew, a church planter who is pastoring the Living Hope Baptist Church in Woonsocket, R.I. This church held its first worship service on May 23. Pray for doors to open to minister to Laotians living in the community.

Pray for Carl and Mary Reagan of Franklin, N.C., who are Mission Service volunteers serving as national Campers on Mission specialists. Pray for the more than 1,000 people in 500 camping units—many

among them will leave from the National Campers on Mission Rally to be held at Glen Rose, Tex., and go directly to mission assignments throughout the country.

Pray for Ross Harmonson, director of missions for Southwest Iowa and Northwest Iowa Baptist Associations. Pray especially for Audubon and Didney counties, where there is no Baptist work.

Pray daily for leaders and campers at Garaywa and Central Hills. Pray that those who attend will come to realize that "God has a plan, a place and a purpose" for every life.

Pray for the Young Musicians Conference at Gulfshore June 28-July 2.

Pray for the BAPTIST RECORD, its editor and staff. Its information and inspiration are instruments in God's Hands to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Pray for financial and personal support for the North Delta Baptist Association which is seeking to establish a crisis ministry and a crisis pregnancy center in Clarksdale. They have some support from the HMB and MBCB, but more is needed.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE 969-PRAY



Renae Butler

Hometown:

Maynard, Arkansas

School Attending:

Williams Baptist College,
College City, Ark.

Place of Service:

New Choctaw Baptist
Association

Responsibilities:

VBS, BBC, Day Camp, visitation and survey



Leslie Spring

Hometown:

Hammond, Louisiana

School Attending:

Southwest Mississippi
Community College,
Summit, Miss.

Place of Service:

Pike Baptist Association

Responsibilities:

Resort ministries in Percy
Quinn, BBC work in housing
projects, mobile parks and
day camps



Mark Chandler

Hometown:

Weirton, West Virginia

School Attending:

East Central Community
College, Decatur, Miss.

Place of Service:

Chickasaw Baptist
Association

Responsibilities:

Resort ministries, BBC,
Recreation for tourist and
campers, lead in worship
and special ministries



Chuck Butler

Hometown:

Pensacola, Florida

School Attending:

Pensacola Junior College,
Pensacola, Fla.

Place of Service:

Covington Baptist
Association

Responsibilities:

VBS, plan and oversee
summer recreational pro-
gram for children and
youth

Richard Brogan, consultant, *Cooperative Missions Department*, serves as the State Supervisor for the 10-week Student Summer Missions program. If you would like to "help bring Mississippi to Jesus," and would like to know how you could serve as a Student Summer or Semester Missionary, contact the Cooperative Missions Department, 968-3800, Ext. 3961. You can take the gifts, abilities and resources God has given you and provide a caring touch.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HONDURAS TO BECOME A REALITY

Following months of discussion and planning with the Baptist Mission of Honduras, the Foreign Mission Board, the National Convention of Honduran Baptists, and representative leaders of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in its May meeting the Executive Committee of the MBCB approved a three-year partnership beginning Jan. 1, 1994.

Previous to the action of the MBCB Executive Committee, there had been official requests for the partnership from the Convention of Honduran Baptists, and the Honduras Baptist Mission.

The partnership will seek to meet needs by answering requests for help with human resources in Evangelism, Leadership Development, Medical/Dental projects, Ministry Support projects, Agri-Mission projects, and Construction projects. These requests will come from Honduras through the Foreign Mission Board to the Partnership office in Jackson.

Many Mississippians have participated in Medical/Dental projects over the past 18 years. Some of the leadership for these groups have requested that their teams come under the partnership relationship with Honduras. These will begin Jan. 1, 1994 as well.

Prayer support is vital to the success of every mission venture. As prayer is offered for the existing partnerships with Zimbabwe and Alaska, please add Honduras to these requests. Groups interested in participating in a project in 1994 may contact the Partnership office at 968-3800 in the Baptist Building for more information.



CHURCH RENEWAL

by Sidney Ellis

State Church Renewal Coordinator

When we make a trip, we should first plan our route by using maps and estimating the time involved. The results then make a more enjoyable trip, and the destination is easily obtained. The Church Renewal Journey should be approached in the same manner as any other trip. It is a Biblical and spiritual process sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and the Home mission Board.

Preparation, planning, and prayer are the major keys to a successful Church Renewal Journey. Through search and discovery, the church determines where it is spiritually, what is God's desire for the body, and what will be needed to get there.

Once the church approves the Church Renewal Journey, the first of the four major phases, will be the Lay Renewal Weekend. The Lay Renewal Weekend should be planned for the local church as a separate and distinct experience. This experience will put a new excitement in the life of the church and its ministry. Following is a letter from a pastor who has experienced this excitement in his church.

WHAT IS LAY RENEWAL?

If you were to ask the congregation at the West Ripley Baptist Church, "What is Lay Renewal?", many would respond by saying something like this, "It is one of the greatest experiences that I have ever had in my life." In the 26 years which I have been in the ministry, Lay Renewal has done more as a tool, anointed by God, to bring about greater church-wide revival than anything I have used.

We have had three Lay Renewals here at West Ripley within the last ten years. Since our church has grown, we have had new folks involved each time. The last one was held September 11-13, 1992.

As a result of that Lay Renewal, West Ripley has seen some wonderful things happen. We saw seven souls saved, numerous rededications, occasional church goers become committed Christians, timid believers give bold testimonies,

indifferent attitudes become deep concern, many people enjoying a warm friendly fellowship, and spiritual growth evidenced in the lives of many. We have had more people become involved in Study Courses, Mission causes, and Outreach ministry since the Lay Renewal. On the Sunday night evaluation service concluding the weekend, the congregation shared testimonies of what had happened in their lives. The service lasted for four hours and even after the benediction, people stood around for a while enjoying the fellowship.

*"It is one of the
greatest experiences
that I have ever had
in my life."*

There also have been some public decisions made for the Lord every Sunday for several months here at West Ripley.

Real revival started when the adults, young married, and the youth were meeting in cottage prayer meetings each week, in preparation for the Lay Renewal. The spark of revival still burns as some of those cottage prayer meetings still go on and prayers are still being answered. Since the Lay Renewal, we have received into our church family, 14 members by baptism and 22 members by transfer of letter. God has been blessing in a marvelous way. I have never been more excited in my 26 years of ministry about what God is doing. Yet, I know that He has only just begun.

"What is Lay Renewal?" Well, words are inadequate to right fully describe it as were the words of the blind man that Jesus healed. He did not know as he said, "Once I was blind, but now I see." He could not explain it, but he knew he had had the greatest experience of his life. When there is prayer, preparation, participation, and a surrender to God's spirit, Lay Renewal can be the greatest spiritual experience in your Christian life and the life of your church.

Billy W. Baker, Pastor
West Ripley Baptist Church



4th Annual Minister's Golf Tournament

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MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
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July 29-30, 1993

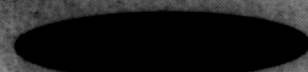
Live Oaks
Country Club

\$50.00

for two days and two lunches

Two man Scramble
(team-up with your partner)

Call Dot Nixon 925-3263



CHURCH WEEKDAY RETREAT

Kindergarten and Daycare Directors and Teachers

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Mississippi

August 5-7, 1993



CONFERENCE TOPICS:

- Building Relationships With the Home
- Developing a Policy for Health Issues
- New Resources in Church Weekday Education
- Learning Center Development and Use
- Make and Take Session for New Ideas
- Home-made Toys and Toys With a Purpose

CONFERENCE FEES:

Special rates apply for children staying in the room with parents.

"A" Unit (2 persons per room)

Adults-	\$78.40
Child-	\$37.70 (Age 2-11)
Babies-	\$ 2.00

"B" Unit (2-4 persons per room)

Adults-	\$72.40
Youth-	\$45.90 (12 years - 12th grade)
Child-	\$23.95 (Age 2-11)
Babies-	\$ 2.00

Cost for Commuters:

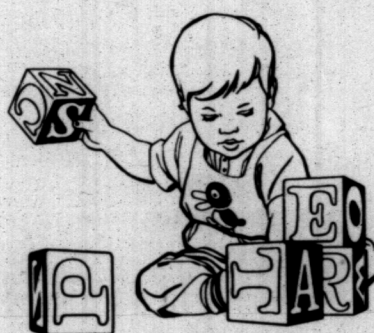
- \$ 1.50 Gulfshore fee per day
- \$ 3.50 materials fee per day
- \$ 15.45 optional meal cost per day
(Breakfast, \$4.45; Lunch, \$5.50; Supper, \$5.50)

Guests may begin checking in at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. A deposit of \$30.00 per person or \$60.00 per family must accompany requests for reservations. Contact Gulfshore for cancellation policies.

TO REGISTER:

Please complete and send the following form to:

Frank Simmons, Manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571, Telephone (601) 452-7261.



Give Christ first place

Christ is Lord of your life. That includes not only your abilities and resources but also your body and mind.

First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program is a unique Lay Institute for Equipping (LIFE) course that will help you improve your mental, physical, and emotional health under Christ's lordship. Thirteen sessions on healthful eating habits, exercise, self-control, life-style decisions, and victories in daily life will improve the quality of your life and will help you make Christ number one.

Give Christ first place. Study *First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program* in a group at church. Materials include a member's notebook, four Bible studies, a leader's guide, a leader's guide refill pack, and a supplemental videotape. Purchase from the Baptist Book Stores and from the Customer Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Article continued from front page

Who should teach in extended session? The support and understanding of your pastor and other ministers is a key to having good extended session experiences. Sunday School and Discipleship Training teachers are extended session teachers once a month or once a quarter or whatever plan your church may work out. A Sunday School or Discipleship Training teacher enables preschoolers to feel more secure during the second hour. These teachers provide a "bridge" from one session to the extended session.

Other people who would make good extended session teachers are young couples with no children, single adults, grandparents, senior adults, and parents of preschoolers who choose to teach in a department other than their preschoolers' department. Do not overlook qualified college students. In some cases mature senior high youth may be considered. Refer to your Preschool policies as to approval process for senior high youth. If a senior high youth is selected to serve, pair the youth with an experienced adult.

Extended session teachers need to have a special love for preschoolers, understand the ministry, be dependable, and realize the need for preparing for each session. Training for the teachers is a must once they have been enlisted.

How to schedule teachers. One method of scheduling is assigning each teacher one Sunday a month to teach in extended session. Two teachers per department is a minimum for meeting the needs of preschoolers. Another method is that of assigning teachers an entire month of the year to teach. The teacher would teach each Sunday in that month.

There are other questions that need to be asked concerning attitude. What is the attitude of church members toward extended session? Is extended session supported regularly by the leadership and staff of the church? How is it promoted? Is extended session visible in the church organization? Is it mentioned in the church newsletter, bulletin, or from the pulpit? A good extended session depends on a good attitude. ☐

By Linda Reeves, Preschool Consultant, Sunday School Department

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List names and ages of children attending on separate sheet.

HOUSE OF

Singing Churchmen return from CIS journey

By Teresa Dickens

"I can't put into words what the trip meant to me."

That was the sentiment of every member of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen who talked with the Baptist Record about their May 19-June 1 trip to four republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Twenty-seven members of the choir toured the republics with stops in Minsk, Belarus; Moscow, Russia; and Almaty, Kazakhstan. The final leg of the tour, May 24-June 1, was spent in Kyrgyzstan.

The choir, traveling under the auspices of Mississippi International, Inc., and the Foreign Mission Board, sang in churches, concert halls, music conservatories, and a prison, along with a number of impromptu concerts in airports, restaurants, and on city sidewalks. The choir's repertoire consisted of patriotic and spiritual numbers, along with several pieces in Russian, including "Jesus Loves Me" and "How Great Thou Art."

The trip took on its indescribable nature for a variety of reasons, according to the men's testimonies. First was the overwhelming reality that they — Christians — were allowed to share their faith through song and word in the former Soviet Union. "It is a miracle," several of the men said.

Worshipping with fellow believers also made the trip special. Many of the men shared how Pastor Constantine in Minsk touched them: He spent seven years in prison for sharing his faith in Jesus Christ. But he doesn't talk about it without prodding, and then he says, "We've all had hardships."

Nearly all of the men spoke of how they were deeply moved when the choir of Central Baptist Church in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, sang "Majesty," a long-time

favorite of American choirs. When they finished, the churchmen were asked to sing with them. So both groups, in their native tongue, joined together in singing the anthem.

The historical significance of the tour also humbled the choir, the men said. Invited to Kyrgyzstan by the country's minister of culture, the Mississippi group learned that they were the first American choral group ever to perform in the republic. The minister told the choir that they were helping develop diplomatic relations between America and Kyrgyzstan.

But the aspect of the trip that most impacted the men, which they could not talk about without tears, was the variety of opportunities they had to witness for Christ, many times one-on-one. During the two-week tour the men distributed 24,000 tracts and over 400 New Testaments, all in Russian.

Bill Sellers of Jackson told about the concert in a 4,000-capacity, maximum security prison in Minsk. "While we were singing 'Jesus Loves Me,' (in Russian) I looked down and saw tears running down the cheeks of many of the inmates," he recalled. "When we finished, we moved into the audience to give away tracts. Before I knew it, I was surrounded by inmates, 10 deep, all reaching for tracts."

Milford Valentine of Hattiesburg spoke of an experience he had in Almaty. The men were told not to

initiate conversation about Christianity, but if asked, they could respond without reservation. So after explaining to a man that each member of the choir was a professional musician in Mississippi and that the trip was not sponsored by the U.S. government, the man

asked, "What is your real reason for being here?"

"That gave me the opportunity to say what I really wanted to say," recalled Wood. "I told him what it meant to be a Christian and that Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. I then gave him a tract. Although he didn't respond, a seed was planted."

Many of the witnessing opportunities the churchmen had came through relationships the men established with families they stayed with in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. While the families in Belarus were Christian, the group's host families in Kyrgyzstan generally were not.

One exception was the family which hosted Graham Smith of Jackson and Gordon Bennett of Pascagoula. While the men shared a common faith in Christ with family members, they learned quickly that the restrictions the communist government had placed on worship had robbed Christians there of many rich traditions.

One evening as the men visited with their host family and other

guests the subject of Christmas came up. In an effort to find something in common, "I suggested we find some Christmas carols we all knew," Smith recalled. "Gordon and I sang several Christmas carols — they did not even know 'Silent Night.'"

However, most of the men's experiences were more like that of Jimmy Little of Long Beach and John McGraw of Laurel who stayed with a Muslim family in Bishkek. The father is manager/coach for the national football (soccer to Americans) team, and he and his wife have two children, Little explained. The oldest child, Eric, is a medical student. He and McGraw, a surgeon, became quick friends, Little added.

"They were very open and warm," Little recounted. "And because they asked, we were able to share our testimonies with them. Our last night in their home, they asked for a Bible. We gave them a New Testament in Russian with the plan of salvation marked."

Bill Herman of Brookhaven got the opportunity to share his testimony with an English class in which a member of his host family was a student. His host asked him to attend the class so they could practice their English with him. During the course of conversation, one of the students asked him, "Why do you believe God exists?"

"Her question opened the door for me to share why I believe in God and why a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way to know God," he recalled. "It was a seed planted, and I believe God will tend it and bless it."

Tanner Riley of Starkville and David Prevost of Tupelo stayed with an ethnic Russian family. The family's 18-year-old daughter served as interpreter for the men, Riley said.

"Within 30 minutes after arriving in their home, the mother asked us about our faith and about Baptists," Riley shared. "A few nights later, friends came over for dinner. As soon as dinner was finished, the man who was visiting asked us about the Bible."

"We talked intensely for an hour and a half," Riley continued. "We gave our testimonies and explained the doctrine of salvation. After a while, the man said, 'We have talked about many things. We have been communicating heart to heart.'"

Before leaving for the U.S., Riley told the daughter, who is majoring in English in college, about an English-speaking Bible study conducted by Cooperative Service International volunteers living in Bishkek. He encouraged her to go. Although she made no commitment to him, he received word June 11 that she attended the Bible study June 6, and in the words of the CSI volunteer who sent him the message, "Tell Tanner he has a new sister."

"I don't know what happened after we left," Riley said through tears, "but I believe it is the fruit of the seeds we planted there."



asked, "But why are you here?" Valentine then responded, "Because we love you and wanted to share Christ with you."

J.M. Wood of Jackson had a similar experience in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Sitting at the dinner table with the city's vice mayor and the director of the city council, Wood offered them an explanation similar to Valentine's. After he finished, the director



The Mississippi Singing Churchmen featured trumpets in their rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" during a recent concert tour in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Larry Cox, president of Mississippi International, Inc., and Ann Preston, owner/manager of International Tours of Clinton, hosted the two-week tour.



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Just for the Record



First Church, Clinton, had 101 young men enrolled in the Royal Ambassador program for 1992-93. RAs, pictured, were recognized in the church service on May 19 for work completed toward their pins and badges.



First Church, Gautier, held an Acteen Recognition Service on April 18 with the theme "Becoming." Queens, pictured, first row, from left, are Elizabeth Nguyen, Alison Felton, and Ann Nguyen. Second row, from left, are Francelle Sanderford, leader; Queen with Scepter Beth Simpson; Queen Christy Siedell; and Queen Sherie Miller. Not pictured are Queen Kim Staup and Reba Koski, leader.

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will present "Prophetic Images of the Messiah" on display through June. The seven paintings by Christian artist Kerry Jackson, interpret selected Scriptures from the Old Testa-

ment. Call 373-2371 for more information.

Calvary Church, Durant, will feature First Love Revival and Jerry & Spin Smith in a gospel singing, June 19, at 7 p.m.



North Greenwood Church GAS were recently honored with a pizza/slumber party at the church's youth house. They also received appreciation level badges for their achievements. Pictured, left to right, top photo, are first- and second-graders Bess-Thomason, Allie Dale, and Brittney Cox. Third through sixth grade GAS honored were, bottom photo: first row, Ann Ross Williams, Mallorie Thomason; second row, Lauren Chamblee, Marley Pentecost, Allison Wellborn; third row, Tabitha Fidanza, Kelly Brooke Webb, Kristin Gilmer; fourth row, Jade Billings, Sabrina Fidanza, and Lindsey Pentecost.



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RANKIN

From page 3

— Focus on responsive mission areas — "those harvest fields that God has ripened" — without neglecting so-called World A, the one-fourth of the world that has never heard the gospel.

— Streamline the FMB's administrative structure.

— Give missionaries more influence in developing FMB strategies, "with little direction from Richmond," Rankin said. "Because we are trying to reach a world that is diverse, we cannot have one global strategy."

— Continue the FMB's devotion to "indigenous missions" — in which nationals and not missionaries control the churches in a country — but with increased emphasis on missionary-generated strategies. "Indigeneity does not mean passivity," he explained.

— Use more volunteers and other non-traditional channels for world evangelization, answering a criticism of many trustees about current

FMB practice.

The FMB has constructed "too narrow a funnel through which Southern Baptists can work through the Foreign Mission Board," he said. "A theme I hope you will be hearing a lot in the future is 'The Foreign Mission Board: Southern Baptists' channel for reaching a lost world.'"

In a news conference following the election, Rankin interpreted his election as good news for Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide.

"I have walked where they walk," he said. He noted he and his wife, Bobbye, have been inundated with support from the mission field. "We have received such an outpouring of affirmation that this was the hope beyond hope that God would choose someone from among our missionaries."

Rankin promised the missions force would continue to grow, from the current 3,953 missionaries to a record 4,000 within coming months. And the growth will surpass 5,000 by the year 2000, he predicted.

— (Compiled from BP and ABP press reports.)

13 vols evacuate Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP) — Thirteen Southern Baptists working with international aid organizations were evacuated from Somalia at the request of the United Nations.

After 23 Pakistani troops were killed and approximately 50 injured June 5 in Mogadishu, the U.N.

feared expatriates would be caught in the crossfire of retaliation by peacekeeping forces.

Evacuation by the Southern Baptist volunteers means the daily feeding of 46,000 people has been suspended, as well as operation of 22 medical clinics.

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No Baptist Record July 8

There will be no Baptist Record published July 8, 1993. Our postal contract requires that we mail only 50 issues per year. Therefore, the Baptist Record skips one issue in each month of July and December.

News items that would appear in the July 8 issue will instead appear in the July 1 issue. Deadline for submitting articles for the July 1 issue is noon on Thursday, June 24.

Staff Changes

Lowell Johnson is the new pastor of New Hope Church, Lee Association. A graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary, he and his wife, Janice, have one son, Tim.



Johnson

Oak Grove, Smithdale, has called Buddy McMorris as pastor effective June 13. He is a native of Louisiana.

Randy Whitlock has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne Association, and is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and interim work in preaching and music ministry. He and his family are also available for gospel music concerts. He can be reached at 428-5768.

Michael Peeler, son of Percy and Hilda Peeler of Franklin County, has been called to serve as associate music director of First Church, Crossett, Ark. Peeler is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He recently completed internship as music assistant at First Church, Columbia.

Woodville Heights, Jackson, has called Kiely Durell Young II as minister of activities, youth, and college, effective June 7. A native of Greenville, he received his education at Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Friendship Church, Grenada.

Joey Lott is the new youth director for Rome Church, Sun-

flower Association, effective Jan. 17. He was active in the BSU at Northwest Community College and will attend Delta State University in the fall. Lott worked in missions last year in the Northwest. Terry Tribble is pastor.

Williamsville Church, Attala Association, has called Allen Simpson as pastor, effective June 13. He and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of a son, Jason. A native of Eupora, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Fellowship Church, Webster Association.

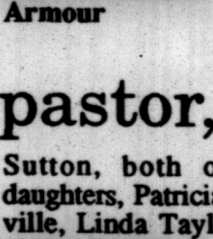


Simpson

First Church, Clinton, has announced two new additions to its staff. Rodney Bounds started March 15 as minister of activities. He previously served as minister of youth/activities at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson. Joe Armour started May 1 as minister of education. He previously served as minister of adults/outreach at First Church, Tupelo.



Bounds



Armour

J.A. McCain, pastor, dies

Joseph Alexander "Bill" McCain, 69, pastor of Sardis Church, Hazlehurst, died of pneumonia, May 22. Services were held May 24 at Sardis Church.

He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, and pastored churches in Grenada, Simpson, Jones, Smith, and Copiah counties.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; sons, Michael K. McCain, Braxton, and Pat Sutton and Ted

Sutton, both of Newhebron; daughters, Patricia McCain, Nashville, Linda Taylor, College Station, Texas, and Ramona Denison, Purvis; brothers, Gene McCain, Pearl, Frank McCain, Jackson, Marvin McCain, Lexington, Tenn., and Paul McCain, Toxey, Ala.; sisters, Thelma Ursey, Fairhope, Ala., Nell Allen, Poplarville, Opal Johnson, Livingston, Ala., and Helen Ellard, Bessemer, Ala.; and 10 grandchildren.



McCain

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Thursday, June 17, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

NASHVILLE (BP) — John E. Rush, vice president of stewardship development for the Stewardship Commission since 1976, has accepted a position with the Tennessee Convention Children's Homes effective July 1. Rush, 54, will be the associate vice president of development for the TBCH which operates three main campuses in Memphis, Franklin, and Chattanooga, and a Boy's Ranch in Millington, all in Tennessee.

Milfred Valentine, dean of Carey's Winter's School of Music, will serve as Oratorio Chorus and Conference Choir Director for the Music Leadership Week at Ridgecrest Conference Center, North Carolina, June 19-25. Valentine will be responsible for directing the conference choir for each morning session and preparing the Oratorio Chorus for a performance of Rutter's Gloria and Vivaldi's Gloria on Thursday evening, June 24.

Sandra H. Fitts of Corinth has been named a regional field consultant for the church media library program of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. A native of Mississippi, she graduated from University High School in Oxford and attended the University of Mississippi, majoring in business.

The Sims Brothers of Florence will present gospel music at Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora, 1:30 p.m., on June 20. They will present original works written by Todd Sims and selections from their soon to be released recording. For more information, call 258-7942.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — David Lambert of Alcoa, Tenn., has been selected as the winner of the 1993 Jerry Clower National High School Baptist Young Men Missions Speak Out. The annual competition is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. The speeches must reflect the entrants' involvement in the agency's High School Baptist Young Men program for grades 9-12. As the national winner, Lam-



Danny W. Forrest Jr. was presented a license to preach the gospel by his father and a deacon, Danny Forrest Sr., April 7, at Union Church, Lincoln Association. Pictured, from left, are Keith Abrams, chairman of deacons; Ron Simpson, pastor; Danny Forrest Jr.; and Danny Forrest Sr.

bert received an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston. Christian comedian Jerry Clower has allowed his name to be used in connection with the national contest.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Harry Hampsher, who retired in January after 15 years as a Southern Baptist missionary to Portugal, died unexpectedly of a heart attack June 6. He was 65. Hampsher, a native of Williamsport, Pa., and his wife, the former Martha Leob of Corry, Pa., were married in 1947. He worked as a minister of music in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia before he became a missionary. In Portugal he was a music promoter in churches and a part-time teacher in the seminary in Lisbon. He is survived by his wife and two grown children.

Bassfield Church, Bassfield, ordained James R. (Randy) Gardner to the gospel ministry on May 23. He is married to the former Carmen Stephens and they have one daughter, Kelly. Gardner is a student at New Orleans Seminary and can be contacted at (504) 286-8403 for supply work.

Revival Dates

Fellowship, Mendenhall: June 20-23; 11 a.m., Sunday; 7 p.m. each evening; Billy Ingram, interim pastor, Beulah, Magee, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; George E. Meadows, pastor.

Mt. Pleasant, West: June 20-25; 7:30 p.m.; Larry Edwards, Mt. Olive, Carroll County, evangelist; B.H. Maxwell, Pickens, music; Murriell Vitt, Tuscaloosa, Ala., pianist; W.M. Daves, pastor.

Faith, Silver Creek (Lawrence): June 20-23; 7 nightly; Joel Evan-son, Mendenhall, evangelist; James

Netherland, Pearl, music; John L. Jones, pastor.

First, Coffeeville (Yalobusha): June 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon & 7:30 p.m.; Mike Smithey, Marks, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, Decatur, Ala., music; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Cloverdale, Natchez: June 20-25; 7 nightly; nursery provided; Philip Brown, Gurdon, Ark., evangelist; Brown Family gospel singers, music; Weyland Gauntt, pastor.

Revival Results

Westside, Hazlehurst: May 31-June 5; extended services one day; Mike Alexander, Jayess, evangelist; 1 profession of faith; 21 rededications; Larry Hart, pastor.

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Pontotoc DOM Wade Allen retires

Wade Allen, director of missions for Pontotoc Association, will retire after 16 years of service on July 1. A reception will be held in his honor June 27 at the Pontotoc Baptist Center, Hwy. 15, 2-4:30 p.m.

He who knows nothing is nearer the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors. — Thomas Jefferson



Temple Church, Big Point, honored Ruby Dobbs, right, for her 26 years of service as church treasurer on May 16. The church held a reception in her honor and presented her a plaque acknowledging her dedication. William Lance Hoggatt, left, is pastor.

Homecomings

Homewood, Forest: June 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner served; memorial service and singing by the Leaf River Boys at 1:30 p.m.; James T. Maddox, pastor.

Uniform Keep on keeping on



By Chuck Pourciau
Philippians 3:1-16

I had been sharing Christ with a particular 46-year-old man for some months when I got an idea. I had shared Scripture about salvation time and time again. I finally decided that the fact that my pre-Christian experience had little in common with his was a hindrance to his committing his life to the Lord. So I invited a deacon to come with me and share his testimony with this man. This young deacon had lived a pre-Christian life that was very similar to the man to whom I had been witnessing. I immediately saw the positive effect of this man's testimony. I believe that testimony was the difference in that man later coming to know Christ.

God can really speak through testimonies, and we've all experienced that. Here Paul shares a word of testimony in an effort both to warn and challenge his readers.

Paul's warning (vv. 1-3). Paul warned here, as elsewhere, that it is wrong to teach that the rituals of Judaism were binding for Christians. Many Jewish Christians were teaching a salvation that included both Jesus and Moses, both grace and works. Paul referred to those teachers as *dogs* and told the Philippians to watch out for them.

It is not uncommon even today for Christians to add to the requirements of the gospel. Too often we ask other believers to fit into our narrow, preconceived notion of what a Christian is to be. God made each of us to be ourselves in Christ. We are all unique under God and must not fall into the frustrating trap of trying to be someone other than ourselves.

Paul's personal achievement (vv. 4-6). The false teachers were pointing to their personal Jewish achievements as an example for all Christians to follow. Paul informed his readers that no one had outdone him in fulfilling the requirements of Judaism. He listed some of his Jewish credentials and then stated that if anyone could boast about achievement in Judaism, he could. He had even gone so far as to persecute the Christian church. Yet all of that was rubbish in the presence of Christ.

This teaches us that impressive religious attainments do nothing to bring about salvation. God is not impressed in what we do for him but in what he does in us. So often we base our salvation or our right-standing with God on how faithful we are in our religious duties. Every positive ministry that occurs is a result of the grace of God at work in a willing believer. Church success must not lead to arrogance but to greater humility.

Paul's Christian testimony (vv. 7-11). When Paul met Christ, everything he had accomplished became worthless. Why? Because just knowing Christ brought far greater satisfaction than all the personal accomplishments of an entire lifetime. He now knew true righteousness that came from God through faith. His primary concern was now to "know Christ." The most wonderful experience in life is not a growing Sunday School, a beautiful singing voice, or great eloquence. It is knowing Jesus. All else pales in contrast. We all need to praise God for the blessings of salvation.

Paul's goal (vv. 12-14). Paul's Jewish experience had led to arrogance, but his Christian experience led to humility. Paul has no illusions of perfection, but he was committed to continue to try to be. He would keep pressing toward the mark until the Lord called him home. He had come a long way, but he refused to rest in his progress.

Paul's challenge (vv. 15-16). Paul then acknowledged the fact that one never gets to the point that he knows or understands everything. He just has to trust God to make those things clear to him. Paul then pointed out something very important. He challenged the Philippians to put into practice what they did already understand.

Growing in Christ is both a thrilling and frustrating experience: thrilling as we draw closer to God and frustrating as we continue to sin. Don Ball led a lay renewal at our church and put that issue into perspective with an analogy. As we draw closer to God, we draw closer to the light. As we get closer to the light, our imperfections show up much more clearly because of the light. We must not allow that to discourage us from growing. Rather we must let it encourage us to allow God to do something about the imperfections. Don't give up. Keep on keeping on.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Old sins repeated



By Guy A. Hughes
Isaiah 58, 59

Vance Havner preached, "Christians can get into a religious rut and fall into a mere form of godliness without power. But the true disciple is a rebel against this age because the friend of the world is the enemy of God. The Christian life is a revolution and a revolution is the opposite of a rut, which is only a grave with both ends knocked out."

Isaiah's description of Israel's empty ritual and sinful behavior teaches that people today can allow empty ritual and sinful behavior to separate them from God. This separation is dangerous because it always leads to death. Those who practice empty ritual possess a dead faith which is no faith at all.

Condemnation of meaningless religious ritual (58:2-9a). Many of the Israelites continued in their dead faith, meeting daily for the sake of meeting, with no change in lifestyle. The people were eager to know God's ways but expressed little desire to live God's ways. Hypocrisy was rampant and God was upset. A vivid example of their insincerity was in the manner in which they fasted.

The origin of fasting is unknown. This voluntary abstinence from food was most often associated with mourning and repentance. David fasted during the illness of a child (2 Sam. 12:16-23), and Ahab fasted after his confrontation with Elijah (1 Kings 21:27). These were personal examples of fasting while mourning and in repentance.

Fasting sometimes had a national significance to Israel as seen in 1 Samuel 7:6 and 2 Samuel 1:12. At such times, some of the people were sincere while others were "putting on a show." Isaiah saw through the charade and publicly condemned the people for it. It was not enough for them to deny themselves food while, because of their wickedness, others went hungry. They would leave the place of worship self-sanctified and depart to wreak havoc in the lives of others. A good motto for their church bulletin would have read, "Enter to worship, depart to destroy," for that is how they lived. They had forgotten that true worship will result in our manifesting God's love to our fellow man.

Many are unaware that our Declaration of Independence did not come into being until a day of fasting and prayer had been observed. Appointed by the Continental Congress, the day of fasting was kept by all the colonies on May 17, 1776. At that time in our history, God and the Bible were given more reverence and recognition than they are today. When the nation was finally born, our forefathers rang the Liberty Bell with great enthusiasm, and a legend says that it cracked as they zealously proclaimed their freedom.

Years later the White Chapel Foundry of London offered to recast the huge carillon, but their proposal was, of course, refused. Apparently the symbolic value of the damaged bell, which recalls the religious and patriotic fervor of those early days, is something that Americans still wish to preserve.

This in itself is good; but in view of our nation's moral decline, the crack may also suggest a break in our basic ideals and a serious defect in our spiritual attitudes.

People separated from God by sin (59:1-3). You would think the captivity in Babylon would have taught everyone a lesson in obedience. This was not the case. Some of the people elected to remain in Babylon. Others returned and continued to live in disobedience. In these verses Isaiah reminds his people the cost of rebellion is high — separation from God. The hands they lifted in worship were defiled with the soil of a sinful life and God had no choice but to turn his face. Sin alienates us from God and prevents us from receiving his blessings.

C.H. Spurgeon once said, "If I had a brother who had been murdered, what would you think of me if I... daily consorted with the assassin who drove the dagger into my brother's heart; surely I, too, must be an accomplice in the crime. Sin murdered Christ; will you be a friend to it? Sin pierced the heart of the Incarnate God; can you love it?"

"O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6).

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Confidence in God



By Laura Russell
Acts 12:1-5, 11-16, 24

As we see calamity and suffering around us, we must remember that we live in a fallen world where good behavior is not always rewarded and bad behavior is not always punished. Sin has twisted justice and made our world unpredictable and ugly. But this does not end in despair. Faith in God is justified even when our situations look hopeless. Faith based on rewards or prosperity is hollow. To be unshakable, faith must be built on the confidence that God's ultimate purpose will come to pass.

Persecution under Herod (vv. 1-4). This King Herod was Herod Agrippa I. He was partly Jewish, and the Romans had appointed him to rule over most of Palestine. He moved against the Christians in order to please the Jewish leaders who opposed them, hoping to solidify his position. Herod did all he could to make himself popular with the Jews.

Herod beheaded James, and saw that it pleased the Jews so much that he arrested Peter but postponed his execution until after the feast of Passover. This was a strategic move because more Jews were in the city than usual and Herod could impress more people.

Prayers of the church (v. 5). While Peter was confined in prison, the church prayed earnestly on his behalf. The believers were praying for his safety. The earnest prayer of the church significantly affected the outcome of these events. Prayer changes things. Is this kind of praying of any value in our own day? We may not be able to open prison doors, cure incurable diseases, save people from death, or avert accidents by our intercession; yet we know with conviction that there is value in this kind of praying. The Christian who prays in behalf of someone receives a blessing because his mind is focused on others, and the person for whom he prays receives courage, confidence, and support. We have assurance from the Scripture and personal experience that God answers such prayers according to his grace and purpose.

Peter's release (vv. 11-12). On the night before his execution, Peter was miraculously released. Luke says that an angel of the Lord appeared in the cell and woke Peter, telling him to "get up quickly." His "chains fell off" and the angel commanded him to get dressed. He followed the order and went with the angel. Throughout, Peter was in a daze as though he were dreaming. The angel led him past the first and second guards, through the gate, and out to the street. There the angel left him. Peter recovered and realized what had happened.

Response of the church (vv. 13-16). The prayers of the little group of believers were answered, even as they prayed. But when the answer arrived at the door, they didn't believe it. When the maid who answered Peter's knock recognized the apostle's voice, she rushed back to the assembled church, leaving Peter standing at the locked gate. When Peter was finally admitted, his friends broke into excited questions, and he had to motion them to be silent. We must note what the Christians were doing in that house. They were praying. When they were up against it and had nowhere to go, they went to God.

Continuing work of God (v. 24). In verse 24, our attention is called to another summary account by the writer of Acts. Now that the threat of persecution by the political authority had been stemmed by the death of Herod Agrippa, the church witnessed more freedom in the preaching of the Word of God.

Although God is present everywhere, at times he may seem far away. This may cause us to feel alone and to doubt his care for us. We should serve God for who he is, not what we feel. He is never insensitive to our suffering. Because God alone is sufficient, we can and must put our confidence in him.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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March 31, 1993

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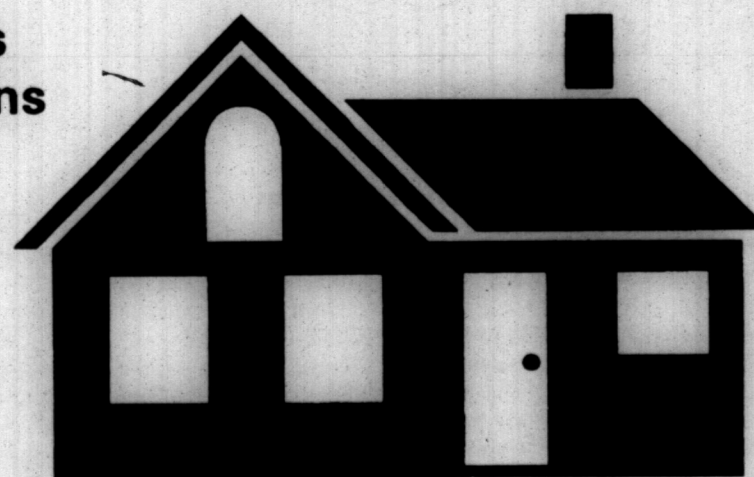
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Team of Mississippi women makes the Alaska connection

By Gene Medaris

Apprehensive. Webster says the word means troubled by fears; anxious; uneasy. For the ladies of First Baptist Church in Valdez, Alaska, it best describes the visit last October from six Mississippi women. Not many "church groups" from "big" churches in the South ever get to Valdez!

Wonderful. Webster says that word means what causes wonder; marvelous, amazing. Webster might be surprised to learn it more accurately describes the aftermath of the Mississippians' visit to First Baptist Church, located in the southern terminal city of the Alaska Pipeline, where the giant tankers are loaded with North Slope oil.

WMU, in this town of 4,000 located 306 miles east of Anchorage, for several years has resembled efforts of whipping a sick horse, if not a dead one. There were jump starts, whinnying sounds, and even times when it went "once around the track," but basically the results were disappointing.

When the women from Mississippi came, each area of the woman's program was represented: WMU, Dell Scoper; BW, Joan Tyler; BYW, Jancie Welborn; Acteens, Diane White; G.A., Maudine Dudley; and Mission Friends, Betty Roberts. Each gave an excellent presentation, so now what should happen? The women should start a WMU, then the other groups follow. Right? Wrong!

Diane spoke to one of the women of FBC on a personal basis. "Dee, (Dee Hodges of FBC) take courage. If only two girls are interested in Acteens then go with two!"

Prophetic words seldom sound like prophecy, but sure enough! Only two were interested when Dee tried to follow that advice. The words of Diane White kept ringing in her ears, so with two girls, Dee held her first Acteen meeting shortly after the group left.

By November the two had grown to five. Lisa Medaris, a member of FBC, taught the girls how to make Mexican tortillas. With a lot of effort and careful instructions, they had an "authentic" Mexican dinner, complete with hot peppers!

December brought increased enthusiasm with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The girls gave a skit, made cookies for foreign-language-speaking people in the community, and took each ethnic group a Bible in their own language. How surprised they were to find two Spanish, one Korean, two Vietnamese, two Thai, and one Chinese family in a town so small. Imagine their surprise, also, when they discovered they had missed several groups!

First, Valdez, averages about 100 in Sunday School. Groups from Mississippi are coming this summer to help in an enlargement

and remodeling program. Loan payments have increased significantly, yet the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was the largest in the history of the church: \$4,528! That makes the Sunday School average \$45.28 per member.

By the time the new year began, the girls had seven "regulars" and a few "not-so-regulars" in their growing group. A slumber party

served foods from these countries as the congregation sat dressed as tourists — loud shirts, cameras, straw hats, etc. Everyone seemed to get into the spirit. As dinner ended, the "plane" was "hijacked" to Mexico. A pinata, filled with lots of candy, became the focal point, until one blindfolded boy connected dead center with the paper mache burro made by one of the girls, and scattered candy everywhere.

On Sunday, one of the Acteen girls, Jenny, gave a report on the unreached people of the world, little did anyone know the Holy Spirit was at work in her heart.

In March, their emphasis focused on the unreached people in the USA. Jenny became very argumentative with the other girls. Soon, they were in the pastor's office with all of them in tears, but they were tears of joy! Jenny had accepted Christ during their tense moments of argument.

The excitement carried over into April and added to the presentation of the Annie Armstrong Easter offering with another skit. Again, they chose to involve the adults through the fellowship dinner on Wednesday evening. Eighty-eight people showed up to "Pin the Pepperoni on the Pizza" (beats "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" version) and hear about home missions too.

The Acteen enthusiasm has spawned enough excitement in the boys to start two Royal Ambassador groups with wilderness trips and mountain climbing as part of their experiences.

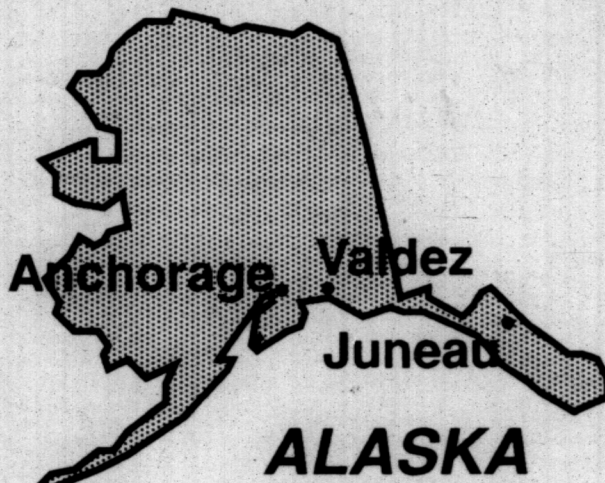
More than 50 Mississippi Baptists will converge on Valdez between June 12 and July 20 this summer. They will help finish what was started by the Singles' Department of First Church of Gulfport in June 1992.

The remodeled and redecorated auditorium, additional educational space, and a real fiberglass church steeple will welcome the fall program in a renewed outreach for Christ. They will be invited to "the most beautiful house of worship in Valdez" — at least that is what our hearts say.

Thanks, Mississippi Baptists, from the Baptists in Valdez for the Mississippi Connection with "little Switzerland," Valdez, Alaska, where 590 inches of snow fell during the winter of 1990. That amount gave us the record for the most snow for any city at sea level in the world. Your help will warm our hearts for many winters to come.

Medaris is pastor, First Church, Valdez, Alaska.

In addition to its partnership project with the nation of Zimbabwe, the Mississippi Baptist Convention is in partnership with the state convention of Alaska, under the auspices of the Brotherhood Department of the MBCB.



was planned and the pastor's wife, Jane Medaris, taught the girls about colors and dress as they relate to skin tone. The immediate response was, "Can we learn makeup next time?"

The excitement of the Acteens was not to be contained, and they planned a "Tacky Tourist Party" for the Wednesday night fellowship dinner, featuring people unreached by the gospel in India, Africa, and China. The Acteens

God's plan of salvation

1. God loves all persons — "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2. But all persons are sinners — "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

3. The Holy Spirit convicts you of sin — "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin... because they believe not on me" (John 16:8-9).

4. Your response is to repent of sin — "...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13).

"...the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:25).

5. And to trust (place faith) in Christ as Savior and Lord — "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation....For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:9-10, 13).

6. Pray for salvation — Lord Jesus, I confess to you that I am a sinner. I believe that you died for my sin and that God has raised you from the dead. I repent of my sin, and I ask you to forgive me and to save me from my sin right now. Thank you for saving me and giving me eternal life. In Your name I pray. Amen.

First Steps of Obedience

1. Publicly confess your faith — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33).

2. Follow the Lord in baptism — "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

3. Join a Bible-believing church — The person who shared this plan of salvation with you can tell you how to become a member of a Bible-believing church where you can find new Christian friends and grow in your new life in Christ.

Newest in Books

The Bible — Applying God's Word to Your Life, by Charles R. Swindoll. (Broadman, 125 pages). Discovering doctrine and seeing its importance can encourage you like nothing else.

The Family of God — Understanding Your Role in the Body of Christ by Charles R. Swindoll. (Broadman, 158 pages). Another in the Growing Deep in the Christ Life Study Series.

Holman Student Bible Dictionary, edited by Karen Dockery, Johnie and Phyllis Godwin. (Broadman). Designed specifically for students and youth leaders.

Linguistics and New Testament Interpretation, edited by David Allan Black. (Broadman, 319 pages). Combining linguistic insights and biblical scholarship.

Church Planting and the African-American Community, by Joe S. Ratliff and Michael J. Cox. (Broadman, 112 pages). Methods and insights being used by two successful black pastors.

The Protestant Wedding Sourcebook, by Sidney F. Batts. (Westminster/John Knox Press, 192 pp.; \$21.95). A complete guide for developing your own service.

The Incredible Life Story of Jungle Pilot George Boggs, by Gloria Graham. (Mission Aviation Fellowship, \$10). The story of Fran and George Boggs' three decades of missionary service in New Guinea.

Marriage Savers, by Michael J. McManus. (Zondervan Publishing House, 283 pp). Helping your friends and family stay married.

Bibliocipher

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PODAOGO, UDD MLASIZ UNO BYZZAPDO MY
LAH MLUM PODAOGOML.

HUNX SASO: MQOSMF-MLNOO

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Nine: Thirty-eight.

Baptist Record
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